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**Risan et al.**

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(54) **PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED  
DISTRIBUTION OF MEDIA CONTENT  
WITHIN A GLOBAL NETWORK**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... **713/189**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

One embodiment of the invention is a method for providing  
media content while preventing its unauthorized distribution.  
The method includes transmitting from a client to an admin-  
istrative node a request for delivery of an instance of media  
content (IMC); determining which content source (CS) of a  
plurality of CSs to provide delivery of the IMC, provided the  
client is authorized to receive the IMC; transmitting to the  
client an access key and a location of the IMC; transmitting  
from the client to the CS a second request and the access key;  
in response to receiving the second request and the access key,  
transferring the IMC from the CS to the client; transmitting  
from the client to the administrative node an indicator indi-  
cating a successful transfer of the IMC; and generating a  
transaction applicable to the client and associated with the  
transfer of the IMC to the client.

**16 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets**

